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SCORES PLUNDER OF CHAHAR IRON MINE,
SHOP AND FACTORY INEFFICIENCY

CHARGES FLAGRANT MALFEASANCE AT P'ANG-CHAI-PAO IRON MINE -- Jen-min Jih-pao, 24 Aug 49

Pei-p'ing, 22 August (NCEA) -- The P'ang-chia-pao Iron Mine of the North China Copper and Iron Company, in southern Chahar, has undergone a long period of destructive plundering during the period from August 1948, when that region was liberated, until June 1949. The plundering was finally stopped as a result of stern orders by the North China People's government.

From 56-foot high, steel, power-transmission towers, 90,000 meters of power cables which formerly carried 7,700 volts high-pressure current, were removed. Only 50,000 meters remain. The steel angle-iron frame supports for the transformers were carried off, cut up, and used as tires for the wheels of old-fashioned carts. At the time of the liberation, the power transmission towers were intact. Now half of them are gone. All the insulated copper wire of the armatures and fields has been stripped from electric motors, ranging mostly from 50 to 200 horsepower but including one of 500 horsepower and two used on electric cars, leaving only bare shells.

This P'ang-chia-pao Iron Mine has iron-ore reserves of nearly 200 million tons, or about one tenth of the known reserves of the whole country. The iron content of the ore is, in general, about 62 percent. Under the Japanese regime, the whole mine plant was electrified, over 25,000 miners were employed, and the maximum daily output of ore was 6,000 tons. Although at the time of the Japanese surrender the mine suffered some destruction the more recent destruction has made the cost of rehabilitation incalculable.

The fact that these valuable resources and assets of a country were neglected over such a long period indicates, on the part of the local government authorities, a serious lack of the sense of responsibility and a poor appreciation of the importance of the resources to the industrial reconstruction

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of the country. On the part of the higher levels of the party and the government, it indicates apathy in relation to the issuance and enforcement of directives. Orders issued on the provincial and hsien levels were ignored, and no investigation or reports were made.

In addition, there is evidence that some of the underlings of hsien and local authorities connived with the thieves. In March 1949, a secretary of the CCP seventh regional committee, Chao K'i (Udea: 11479, 568), had some of the heavy power cable pulled down by local people and used it for the installation of his telephone. The deplorable occurrences at the P'ang-chia-pao Iron Mine should be used to teach a much-needed lesson to the members of our party and government agencies regarding the importance and obligation of protecting public property. Strict reforms must be effected in the control and protection of our mines.

"IRON OX" SAGA -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 8 Aug 49

On 3 March, the locomotive "Iron Ox" appeared in the Ha-erh-pin shops for the first time and the mechanics were instructed to give special attention to its repair. On 12 April, it was discharged as ready for service, but on 16 May it was in again for repairs. Shop managers refused to accept the blame, laying it to the operating crew. The engine stood on a siding until the higher echelons fixed responsibility. After a little tinkering, it was given trial runs, four of which ended in failure and resulted in more makeshift repairs. The superior officials then became impatient and appointed a committee to work day and night till the trouble was diagnosed. After the eighth trial run, the fault was discovered by a mechanic from the Mu-tan-chiang shop. The axle was out of line, due to lack of precision in the lathe work of the wheel shop. The ninth trial run proved uneventful. At the end of July the locomotive was tested, pulling 565 tons up a slope (all empty cars), but it developed a hot-box and had to go back to the shop. From its first admission to the ninth trial, the "Iron Ox" spent 70 days in the repair shops.

WASTE IN SHEN-YANG COTTON MILL, -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 11 Aug 49

The Shen-yang (Mukden) cotton mills, under the Finance Bureau, have been badly managed for the last 8 months, November 1948 to June 1949. Wastage in materials, wages, and repairs has amounted to more than 5 billion yuan. For only 194 looms there are 440 employees, including 53 officials and 77 apprentices, which is more than one third above the quota. Wages are 100 million yuan per month. In May, 12.3 pounds of yarn were used for each bolt of cloth produced. The standard is 11.3 pounds per bolt. This means a loss of one pound per bolt. In spite of this excess use of yarn, the employees were given awards for increased production. Again, nearly 2 billion yuan was spent for building repairs, but with no inspection following the completion of the work, more repairs were needed. The workers were not given political training. Their wages were increased without reason.

EFFICIENT TEXTILE WORKERS -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 9 Aug 49

Since the governing committees in Shen-yang textile mills have offered rewards for increased production, workers have tried to accomplish more. One B-class worker is now tending six looms, as compared with three before. During the last 10 days of July, these two loom operators averaged more than 35 yards-per-day.

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During July, one operator reached a maximum of 42 yards, while his minimum was 35. These two operators increased their own pay, and heightened the confidence of others. When the subcommittee was making plans for July, 13 operators applied for six looms each to tend.

COMBATING WASTE IN AN-TUNG -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 13 Aug 49

Since 18 July, the Antung paper mill has been studying waste prevention. Some of the waste is due to a false economy in building the oven too far from the furnace; also, to using iron pipe instead of lead to carry acids which corrode iron.

Minor losses are those caused by discarding used cement molds, lack of planning in the use of tile, and failure to repair mechanical defects.

Workmen are now noting leakages and suggesting methods of prevention. For example, odds and ends of paper are now picked up and returned to the pulp vat for re-moistening.

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